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## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Steven Reppert et al. Art Unit : 1646  
 Serial No. : 09/226,046 Examiner : M. Pak  
 Filed : January 5, 1999  
 Title : HIGH-AFFINITY MELATONIN RECEPTOR AND USES THEREOF

## BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

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APR 10 2002

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed February 27, 2001, the advisory action mailed December 10, 2001, and the telephonic interview of February 14, 2002 (involving the Examiner, his Supervisor, Janis K. Fraser, and Andrew W. Torrance), and pursuant to the notice of appeal filed by Applicants on August 24, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 34, 37-52, 54, and 56-77 without prejudice.

Amend claims 33, 35, and 53 as follows:

33. A method of testing a candidate compound for the ability to act as an agonist of a high affinity melatonin receptor ligand, said method comprising:

a) contacting said candidate compound with a mammalian cell which expresses on its surface a recombinant high-affinity melatonin receptor protein or melatonin binding fragment thereof, said cell having been transfected with an expression vector encoding said receptor protein or fragment thereof;

b) measuring intracellular cAMP concentration in said cell; and

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